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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 81,857 | Nifty 25,050 | Gold 99,230 | Silver 1,12,329 | Dollar 87.03 | Euro 101.45 | GBP 117.20

LAKE CHOKE

State Pollution Board tells Green tribunal untreated sewage is sucking out oxygen from city's lakes

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IN THE GREEN

Karnataka records over 90% decline in farmer suicides, B'luru has witnessed 0 cases

PAGE 5

After pay cash or give 12% extra for GST remark sparks worry among paying guest accommodation inmates in city, association clarifies that most PGs do not have a business turnover that makes them liable to pay GST

CASH IS IN AS TAX WORRIES PERSIST

Despite GST officials, govt awareness campaigns, misinformation prevails

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"If a PG or hostel owner has an annual turnover above ₹20 lakh, GST is applicable. However, if the same owner is running the PG or hostel in a rented property, they are exempt — GST dept official

Paying rent at Bengaluru's paying guest (PG) accommodations has turned into a concern for many students and working professionals. A recent social media post highlighting PG owners are reportedly sidestepping the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by insisting that residents pay rent in cash took the internet into a tailspin. It claimed that for tenants who prefer digital transactions, owners were allegedly adding an additional 12% GST over and above the agreed rent, sparking frustration among those already grappling with rising living costs in the city.

Bengaluru recently faced much trouble over a GST compliance issue that has hit small businesses and vendors hard. Several received notices for UPI transactions above ₹40 lakh annually, sparking panic among traders with thin margins and little tax awareness. One vegetable vendor was served a ₹29 lakh notice, despite fruits and vegetables being GST-exempt.

Many vendors have since abandoned digital payments, reverting to cash out of fear.

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Attack of the loan wolves

Yet another case of forged documents used to secure loans surfaces; borrower colluded with verification officer

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The 41st ACMM Court has ordered proceedings in a case where a borrower and a loan verification officer allegedly colluded to secure a housing loan of ₹78.5 lakh using forged documents. The complaint, filed by an employee of a nationalised bank, details how fabricated job records, income tax returns and property papers were submitted to obtain the loan.

According to the complaint, the borrower applied for the loan by submitting proof of employment, income tax filings and property ownership documents. The verification officer, entrusted with checking these papers, is alleged to have cleared them without due diligence.

Subsequent checks by the bank revealed that the identity card presented as proof of employment at a private firm in Koramangala was fake, and that the borrower had never worked there. The income tax returns for the financial years 2015–16 and 2016–17 were also found to be forged.

In addition, property papers relating to a flat in Uttarahalli, Bengaluru South, including valuation and title reports, were discovered to be fabricated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Dance tribute

Witness Sant Tulasidas by Guru Acharya Raksha Karthik and disciples, followed by Shashti Varna Chakra, a 60-composition Bharatanatyam masterpiece by Karnataka Kalashree Guru Sathyanarayana Raju, marking his Shashtipoorthi celebrations. **Where: Medai – The Stage, 15, KHB MIG Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala; When: August 23, 5 pm**

02 Cultural journey

Shubham School of Performing Arts presents YATRA 2025, featuring Navapallava with Hindustani vocals, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Kathak, followed by Aaveshika with Chhau, celebrating India's timeless performing traditions. **Where: Yuvapatha, Jayanagar 4th Block; When: August 24, 1.30 pm onwards**

03 Global fusion

Sangamam brings together violinist Jyotsna Srikanth, oud artist Smadj, and tabla maestro Gurumurthy Vaidya in a rare instrumental collaboration blending Indian, Middle Eastern, and world sounds. **Where: Windmills; When: August 22 & 23, 7 pm onwards**

04 Dance festival

Nritya Vasantham – NRITYOTSAV 2025 presents two evenings of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kerala Natanam, and Nangiarkoothu, celebrating youthful talent and honoring eminent Gurus with the prestigious Guru Puraskar. **Where: Nayana Auditorium; When: August 23 & 24, 6 pm onwards**

05 Unplugged vibes

Friday Night Unplugged @ Urban Solace features Dishum – The Band, a high-energy Bengaluru trio blending Bollywood, pop-rock, and South Indian grooves into an electrifying multilingual performance. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: August 22, 7.30 pm onwards**

'Bike taxi decision will be taken at govt level'

Bench flags absence of regulation cannot mean prohibition, stresses bike taxi legitimate trade, asks state give it serious thought and think of 6 lakh vehicles, congestion, passenger convenience

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The Karnataka government on Wednesday informed the High Court that a decision on whether to permit or prohibit bike taxi services in the state will be taken at the highest level of governance.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi was hearing appeals filed by Ola, Uber, and Rapido, challenging a single judge's order halting their bike taxi operations. The court questioned the State's approach of imposing a blanket ban instead of considering regulation.

"Today even e-bikes are not allowed. Now a completely legitimate trade is prohibited. So long as you are permitting a service, you can regulate it. The question is whether regulation would entail complete prohibition?" the bench observed orally. The judges underscored that trade is permissible unless specifically regulated, adding, "This (bike taxi) is not res-extra commercium (outside commerce)."

Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty defended the ban, citing safety concerns. He argued that while bike taxi operations may qualify as a legitimate business, they cannot be permitted in the absence of specific legal provisions. "Law does not vest them with a right to run the business unless there are rules and regulations framed," he submitted.

File photo of 2-wheelers being seized after a bike taxi band was imposed in state

The bench, however, countered by invoking Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to carry on any occupation, trade or business, subject to reasonable restrictions. "As of today, there is a de-facto prohibition," the court noted, adding that the petitioners' challenge rests on the principle that absence of regulation cannot amount to prohibition.

The Advocate General further raised concerns over traffic congestion, especially in Bengaluru. But the court pointed out the contradiction with the government's own stated goal of ensuring last-mile connectivity. "Your arguments run contrary to your policy of last-mile connectivity. Is there material to show that bikes are causing congestion? According to you, will autos cause less congestion?" the bench asked.

Shetty informed the court that around six lakh bike taxis operate across Karnataka, and the larger issue is whether they should be recognised as transport vehicles at all.

At this stage, the bench asked the government to examine the matter at a policy level. "We will defer it by a month. We don't have to be satisfied with the policy, we only have to see whether it is arbitrary or malafide. We will not interfere in policy, that is the scope," the judges clarified.

The Advocate General assured the court that the government would take a "conscious decision," though he clarified that the State was not yet considering framing guidelines. Instead, it will first decide whether to draft a policy, and if so, in what form.

Recording the submission, the court directed that the issue receives "serious thought" within the government. The matter has been posted for further hearing on September 22.

City University renamed after Dr Manmohan Singh

The Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday approved the "Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill – 2025," renaming 'Bengaluru City University' as 'Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University.' Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar presented the bill, which received unanimous approval. However, opposition leader R Ashok argued that naming an existing university after Dr Manmohan Singh seemed like repurposing an old institution. Instead, he suggested establishing a new university to honour the former Prime Minister. **— BMB**

Government to launch affordable IVF centre

With modern lifestyles contributing to rising infertility, many couples are turning to in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), but high costs make it unaffordable for the poor and middle class. To address this, the government is establishing an IVF centre at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (ABVMC&RI), Bengaluru. Announced in the 2023 state budget, the project will receive ₹6 crore funding for clinics across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, and Hubballi. After a two-year delay, the tender process for the Bengaluru unit has begun, and the centre is expected to become operational within six months, providing low-cost treatment that would otherwise cost ₹1.5 lakh to ₹4–5 lakh per cycle in private clinics. **— BMB**

Manipal Foundation extends healthcare to workers

Manipal Hospital Kanakapura Road, in collaboration with the Manipal Foundation, has launched an initiative to provide 10 free surgeries to operational staff including gardeners, electricians, plumbers, security workers, maids, and cleaners from 30 residential apartments. The initiative will remain applicable throughout 2025.

Presidents and secretaries from about 30 apartment associations, including Prestige Falcon City, Sobha Forest View, Sobha Forest Edge, Sobha Arena, Mantri Serenity, Mantri Tranquil, L&T South City, Tata Promont, Brigade Meadows, Purva Highland, Concorde Napa Valley, Century Indus, Sattva Charming Mist, Visthara, Gokulam, Sri Vara Vivantha, Kanakapura Chainmakers Association, Rohit Aakruthi, MKR Association, CMKR Association,

and Value Plus, nominated workers from their communities for the programme. The announcement was made in the presence of the leadership team, including Group Chief Operating Officer of Manipal Hospitals, Karthik Rajagopal, and Regional Chief Operating Officer of Manipal Hospitals Bangalore, Mysore, and Salem, Deepak Venugopalan.

Speaking on the initiative, Karthik Rajagopal said, "This effort at our Kanakapura Road facility is aimed at serving our neighbourhood. By providing 10 free surgeries to those in need, we are extending access to healthcare." **— BMB**

Assembly approves Gig Workers Welfare Bill

The Karnataka Assembly approved the "Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill – 2025," aimed at providing social security benefits, including accident and life insurance, to over four lakh gig workers in the state. Labor Minister Santosh Lad explained that the scheme, already implemented through an executive order, is now being formalised into law. Under the bill, gig workers in the e-commerce sector will receive ₹2 lakh for accidental death, with a total of ₹4 lakh including life insurance. In cases of permanent disability due to accidents, ₹2 lakh insurance coverage will be provided, along with up to ₹1 lakh for hospital expenses. **— BMB**

Sunshine breaks overcast city skies

Bengaluru saw a touch of sunshine on Wednesday, ending nearly a week of persistent overcast skies, according to Namma Karnataka Weather Update on X. The city remained partly cloudy, with daytime temperatures steady around 24–25°C, marking the third straight day of unusually low August highs. Between August 17 and 19, the maximum temperature hovered from 24.4°C to 24.6°C, a rare phenomenon for the season despite mostly dry conditions. Looking ahead, the India Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy skies with occasional light rain for the next few days. Maximum temperature is likely around 28°C, with minimum near 20°C. **— BMB**

Railway passengers miffed by luggage rules

Railway passengers have voiced frustration over the railways' plan to implement strict airport-style luggage regulations at select stations. Under the new rules, travellers cannot board trains with loosely packed bags. All luggage will be weighed and must follow specific limits: AC First Class 70 kg, AC 2-tier 50 kg, AC 3-tier and Sleeper 40 kg, and General Class 35 kg. Bags exceeding these limits or causing inconvenience will attract fines. With thousands entering stations daily, passengers doubt staff can inspect luggage without delays. The regulations will initially be enforced at 11 Northern Central Railway zone stations, including Prayagraj Junction, Lucknow, and Etawah, sparking operational concerns. **— BMB**

Chat with cop bot

Chikkaballapura district police have rolled out Namma Cop 24x7, a multilingual WhatsApp chatbot aimed at making police services more accessible, transparent, and citizen-friendly.

The initiative, developed in collaboration with SJCIT engineering students, faculty members, and a Noida-based tech company, provides instant support across a wide range of services, from emergency help and legal guidance to cybercrime reporting, passport verification, lost-and-found, senior citizen assistance, and women's safety support.

Citizens can also lodge grievances, share feedback, or directly connect with their jurisdictional police station through the platform.

"People often hesitate to visit a station for basic queries. The idea behind Namma Cop is to bridge that gap by bringing services to their fingertips and building trust through technology," said Superintendent of Police Kushal Chowksey.

To use the service, citizens can save the official number '9480802538' and send a "Hi" on WhatsApp to access the menu or type queries directly.

The chatbot is available in English, Kannada, Hindi, and Telugu, with the option to type in regional languages using English alphabets, making it inclusive and easy to use even for those less tech-savvy.

Officials said the chatbot will help reduce the time and resources spent on routine services, while also fostering transparency in policing.

"Namma Cop 24x7 is a step towards citizen-friendly policing, ensuring people can reach us instantly for help and guidance," SP Chowksey added.

2 labourers electrocuted, 2 hurt while dismantling canopy

Two labourers died of electrocution and two others were injured after an iron canopy they were dismantling outside a two-wheeler showroom on Hosur Road, Electronic City, came in contact with a high-tension wire on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Hasan Ali and Abdul Khayyum, both employees of BMS Tent House in Singasandra. The injured, Mumrej Ali (20) and Mohidul Islam (27), are undergoing treatment in hospital and are said to be out of danger.

According to the police, the four workers were instructed to clear furniture and canopy materials hired for a showroom event. While removing the canopy, the iron poles accidentally touched an overhead live wire, causing all four to collapse. They were rushed to hospital, where Hasan and Khayyum succumbed. Mumrej Ali, who regained consciousness, gave a statement detailing the incident. Following this, police booked the showroom management and the BMS Tent House owner for failing to ensure safety. The police have registered a case and further investigations are underway.

Rowdy detained under Goondas Act

Rowdy-sheeter Manjunatha alias Hu Manja (31), wanted in multiple cases including murder, attempt to murder, assault, rioting and theft in Yelahanka, has been detained under the Goondas Act. Police said Manja, who has been active in criminal activities since 2013, continued to commit offences even after securing bail and violated court conditions, posing a threat to public order.

Acting on these grounds, the City Police Commissioner ordered his preventive detention on July 4, 2025. The advisory panel of the High Court later upheld the order, and his custody has now been extended for one year.

Untreated sewage is slow poison to B'luru's lakes

State Pollution Board explains to green tribunal how lakes have low oxygen levels due to organic matter decay, overgrowth of weeds, stagnation

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has reported to the National Green Tribunal that low oxygen levels in Bengaluru's lakes are primarily due to the entry of untreated sewage from residential and commercial catchments without underground drainage.

Natural decay of organic matter, proliferation of aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth, stagnation caused by poor inflow during lean monsoon years, and the ongoing rejuvenation works in certain lakes where water quality samples are presently collected only from diversion channels, and prevailing environmental conditions have led to oxygen present in below detection levels in these lakes, KSPCB has said.

The state pollution control board has submitted the report following the green court taking suo motu cognizance of a Bangalore Mirror report of December 26, 2023. Based on the monthly water quality report of 117 lakes and tanks by KSPCB, BM had reported that over 10% of the water bodies are anoxic. As per the news report, 12 lakes, namely - Madiwala, Herohalli, Karihobanahalli, Dasarahalli, Varthur, Uttarahalli Doraikere, River Dakshina Pinakini near Mugalur, Devarabeesanahalli, Rampura, Kammasandra, Chandapura, Hosakerehalli - recorded 'below detection level' oxygen concentration in November 2023.

According to KSPCB's report to NGT, Chandapura lake is suffering from high pollution levels as the local bodies located on the upstream of the lake have not been provided with a 100% UGD system, and sewage generated is connected to the stormwater drain. While the stormwater drains, which were earlier connected to this lake, have been diverted, seepage is still entering the lake.

In the case of Hosakerehalli Lake, sewage is entering from the south and eastern side of the lake. The water body is covered in water hyacinth, and the BWSSB needs to stop the entry of sewage into the lake and divert it to their nearest STP for proper treatment. "There is an urgent need for rejuvenation of Hosakerehalli Lake by BBMP's Lake division. While KSPCB's regional officer has addressed letters to BWSSB and BDA, so far no response has been received," KSPCB has noted.

Sewerage network

It also highlights that BWSSB has not provided a complete sewerage network in the catchment area of Dorekere, leading to sewage entry. Moreover, while BBMP has provided STP to the lake to treat the sewage, it is not being operated scientifically.

"BWSSB needs to stop the entry of sewage to the lake and divert the same to their nearest STP for scientific treatment. Untreated sewage is entering the water body from the northern side," stated the report.

Hospitality businesses reel under prolonged infrastructure works

Long-pending civic works have slashed footfalls by nearly half, leaving Bengaluru's hoteliers, restaurants, and shopkeepers demanding urgent government intervention to mitigate mounting financial losses

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KAUSHIK JN

Hotels and shops on JC Road continue to face dwindling footfalls due to incomplete road works

The incomplete developmental works across the city have become a major hurdle, causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians alike. With projects progressing at a snail's pace, the situation has also emerged as a growing concern for hoteliers, condiment shops, bars, and restaurants struggling with reduced customer footfall.

Hoteliers and shop owners complain of heavy losses due to declining footfalls. They allege that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have failed to properly inspect or supervise ongoing developmental works, thereby giving contractors a free hand to delay projects and complete them according to their own whims and fancies.

Disgusted with long-pending developmental works, the Bangalore Hotels Association (BHA) submitted a letter to the Deputy Chief Minister on August 16, outlining their grievances caused by the slow progress of projects, particularly road works in the city, which continue to severely disrupt business operations. "The developmental works that are supposed to be completed in three months remain incomplete even after one or one-and-half years. The number of footfalls has decreased by 50 per cent to the hotels, bakeries, and shops situated on such roads where the developmental works remain incomplete", said PC Rao, president, Bangalore Hotels Association.

The hoteliers said the developmental works on many roads, including JC Road, Seetha Circle, Dr Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar, Mosque Road in Frazer Town, Platform Road in Seshadripuram and Mission Road, remain incomplete even after a year. "We want the Deputy Chief Minister to reduce the property tax, Bescom fixed charges, garbage cess by 50 per cent to the hoteliers and shops situated on the roads where developmental works are in progress. We also want the authorities to complete the developmental works as early as possible. We are not against developmental works but the inordinate delay in completing the works causes loss for us", Rao said.

Demanding BBMP authorities to expedite ongoing developmental works, Bangalore Hotels Association Secretary Veerendra N. Kamath said he faced huge losses when Avenue Road was taken up for development. "I own Kamat Hotel on Avenue Road. For many months, more than 40 percent of business declined sharply, causing severe financial strain," Kamath stated.

Appealing to the authorities to complete the ongoing upgradation of roads in the city, Karunakar Hegde of Karnataka State Bar Association said that many bars situated on the roads where the developmental works are pending have been incurring loss. "We have incurred a huge loss due to ongoing developmental works. I want all the roads that were dug up to be asphalted without any delay", Hegde said.

> **"We have incurred a huge loss due to ongoing developmental works. I want all the roads that were dug up to be asphalted without any delay**
> – Karunakar Hegde, Karnataka State Bar Association

Job records, I-T returns, property papers forged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Complainant alleged that both the borrower and the staffer conspired to prepare and submit forged documents to wrongfully obtain the loan.

Recent cases

In recent months, Bengaluru has seen several such frauds. Police in Jayanagar arrested six people for mortgaging the same property with fake documents to over 20 banks, cheating them of nearly ₹10 crore. In another case under Jnanabharathi limits, a father–son duo allegedly fabricated ownership papers for eight vacant sites and used them to raise loans. Earlier this year, the CCB nabbed three men for securing ₹2.3 crore using forged papers, while another borrower was booked for taking multiple loans worth ₹20 crore through fake documents.

Banks continue to remain vulnerable to such frauds as they rely heavily on paper-based records like salary slips, tax returns and property papers, which can be easily forged. "Unless these documents are cross-verified directly with government databases, fraudsters will keep exploiting these loopholes," a city-based advocate said.

Bank alleges collusion

The complaint states that the accused not only forged seals and signatures of officials but also misused the verification process within the bank to pass the fraudulent documents. The verification officer's role is central here, as the sanction of the loan depended on her report.

The court has now ordered legal action against the two under charges of cheating, forgery, and criminal breach of trust.

Woman duped of ₹15.9 lakh in online health insurance scam

A 56-year-old woman has lodged a complaint with the East CEN police alleging she lost nearly ₹15.97 lakh in a sophisticated health insurance scam carried out over WhatsApp.

The complainant, Maria (name changed) told police that her sister, who lives in Bahrain, was contacted on August 11, 2024, by a man identifying himself as Vishal Pawar, a Customer Relationship Manager with an online insurance advisor and an insurance company. Pawar allegedly called her sister's husband on WhatsApp, claiming that there were "errors" in their hospitalisation insurance policy.

According to the complaint, Pawar warned the family that unless the discrepancies were corrected immediately, they would lose benefits for pre-existing diseases. He further insisted that the corrections required fresh premium payments, but refused to accept money from foreign bank accounts. Instead, he asked that the money be transferred through an Indian bank account.

Maria's sister sent funds to her private bank account in Bengaluru, who then made payments through her private bank account. Initially, ₹7.36 lakh was transferred to "correct" the policy. Soon after, Pawar convinced them to purchase a new health insurance policy for ₹8.60 lakh. In total, ₹15.9 lakh was paid.

But the demands did not stop. The complainant alleged that each time a transfer was made, Pawar allegedly found "fresh errors" and assured the family that the money would be reimbursed once the discrepancies were settled.

When the payments were completed, he cut off all contact, switching off his phones and becoming untraceable.

When the family approached the companies directly, both firms denied any link to the individual. The General Manager of the insurance company reportedly advised them to file a police complaint.

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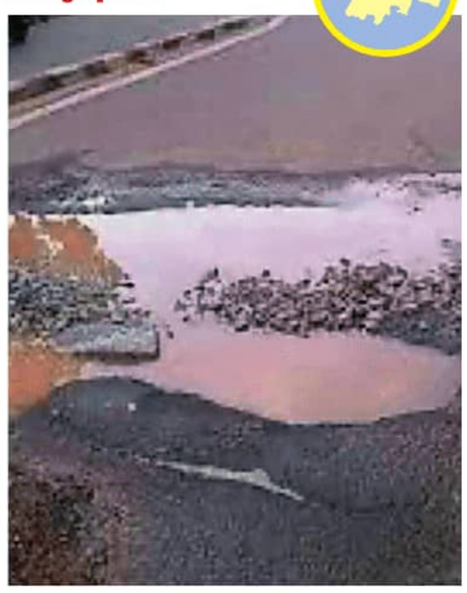
Road danger

Sarjapur



Deep potholes on Sarjapur Main Road endanger two-wheeler riders and pedestrians, demanding swift repair to prevent accidents.

Pipeline disruption

Matadahalli

3rd Main Road, Matadahalli, RT Nagar, remains dug up for water pipeline works, causing severe inconvenience. Residents seek urgent road restoration.

Tree threat

Nehru Nagar

A dangerously bent tree at 144, Nehru Nagar, Seshadripuram, is at risk of collapsing. Residents call for immediate intervention to avert potential mishap.

Farmer suicides drop sharply in K'taka, official data shows relief

Karnataka records over 90% decline in farmer suicides, with compensation, subsidies, and welfare schemes supporting rural families statewide

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Karnataka has recorded a notable decline in farmer suicides over the past three years, with the latest figures showing a steep fall in both absolute numbers and percentages. Official data tabled in the Legislative Assembly reveals that while 1,250 farmer suicides were reported in 2023-24, the number dropped by 13.4 per cent to 1,082 cases in 2024-25. In the current year, 2025-26 (up to July), only 84 cases have been reported, marking a 92.2 per cent decline compared to the previous year. Significantly, Bengaluru Urban district, which reported a single farmer suicide in 2023, has not witnessed any cases since then.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, in his reply to the Assembly, confirmed that out of the 2,416 suicides reported between 2023-24 and July 2025, compensation was sanctioned in 1,962 eligible cases. The state disbursed a total of ₹98.10 crore as relief to the families of deceased farmers. Of this, ₹54.10 crore was distributed for 1,082 cases in 2023-24, while ₹40.75 crore was released in 2024-25. In the current financial year, ₹3.25 crore has been disbursed so far.

No loan waivers since 2024, yet farmer suicides continue to decline, with schemes like PM-Kisan and Vidyanidhi aiding households

> **"Out of 2,416 farmer suicides, compensation was sanctioned in 1,962 eligible cases, with a total of ₹98.10 crore disbursed to families**
>
> –Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda

The minister clarified that the state has not implemented any farm loan waiver schemes since 2024-25. Despite this, farmer suicides have shown a downward trend across most districts, including traditionally high-distress regions like Mandya, Tumakuru and Chikkamagaluru.

Meanwhile, central schemes have provided significant support. Under the "PM Kisan Samman Nidhi" programme, 43.3 lakh farmers in Karnataka received financial assistance between April and July 2025. The scheme is entirely funded by the Union Government. In addition, since 2021-22, the Chief Minister's Vidyanidhi programme has been offering scholarships to children of farmers. Revised guidelines introduced in 2023-24 continue to ensure that financial aid reaches students this year as well.

On agricultural inputs, the state government allocated ₹160.98 crore in 2024-25 for the distribution of subsidised seeds and ₹403.55 crore for farm machinery. Of this, ₹148.59 crore came from the Centre under centrally sponsored schemes. Fertiliser subsidies remain the sole responsibility of the Union Government, which continues to provide support for urea, DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK complexes. The state government does not extend additional fertiliser aid.

District-wise figures reveal wide variations. Haveri recorded the highest number of suicides (260), followed by Kalaburagi (206), Dharwad (172) and Mysuru (166) across the three years.

BBMP officer accused of diverting ₹27.5 crore housing funds

BJP leader alleges assistant revenue officer created fake beneficiaries, transferring crores meant for poor families under Bengaluru Amrutha Mahotsav scheme

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A complaint has been lodged with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner on Tuesday against an assistant revenue officer for diverting funds meant for construction of houses for the poor under the Bengaluru Amrutha Mahotsav scheme. As per the norms, each beneficiary is eligible to get ₹5 lakh for the construction of their homes under the scheme.

Former president of Bengaluru South District BJP, Ramesh NR, filed the complaint alleging that the officer diverted ₹27.50 crore to the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation for disbursement among unauthorised beneficiaries. He has also lodged a similar complaint with the Karnataka Lokayukta, demanding strict action against the officer responsible.

Complainant alleges the officer ignored mandatory norms, transferring huge amounts to unauthorised beneficiaries without proper applications or eligibility checks

According to Ramesh, the assistant revenue officer created a list of fake beneficiaries to misuse the scheme's funds. He alleged that the officer transferred ₹27.50 crore on April 21, 2025, amounting to ₹5 lakh each for 550 applicants, without following proper procedures.

Ramesh pointed out that applicants seeking assistance under the scheme must have resided in Bengaluru for at least three years and should have submitted applications either online or offline, along with the required documents. He claimed that none of the alleged beneficiaries had applied for a 1BHK accommodation through agencies such as the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation, Karnataka Slum Clearance Board, Bengaluru Development Authority, or Karnataka Housing Department, as mandated under the scheme.

"The problem is the blatant violation of norms. The officer transferred the funds without ensuring eligibility. I demand that strict action be taken against this corrupt practice," Ramesh said in his complaint.

He further stated that he has already approached the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Karnataka Lokayukta, submitting documents in support of his allegations.

Ramesh also expressed suspicion that higher officials might be involved in the alleged scam. He urged authorities to act swiftly and transparently, as the money was for housing the homeless and underprivilaged.

Highway safety slogan targets roadkill

Amid rising incidents of roadkill, the Centre has directed all state transport corporations to display the slogan "Be Kind to Animals" on the rear windshields of buses. Issued by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the order mandates the slogan be written in Hindi or the local language, using yellow letters at least 150 mm high. In Karnataka, all four state transport corporations have been asked to implement the directive and submit compliance reports. The initiative seeks to create awareness and reduce animal deaths on highways. **–BMB**

KSRTC: Non-accident damages doubled

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has enhanced benefits under its Employees' Family Welfare Scheme by doubling compensation for deaths due to non-accidental causes from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. Effective September 1, KSRTC will provide ₹14 lakh while the State Bank of India will contribute ₹6 lakh — the first time a bank has partnered in offering non-accident compensation. The revised scheme covers deaths from ailments such as heart attack, cancer, and kidney-related illnesses. KSRTC already extends ₹1 crore accident insurance for employees who die on or off duty. So far, dependents of 157 employees have benefited from the earlier compensation. **–BMB**

2 held for flying drone near High Court

The Vidhana Soudha police booked two men for flying a drone outside the High Court on Sunday night, a no-fly zone that falls under high security. The incident came to light after court security spotted the drone and alerted the control room. A Hoysala team led by ASI Srinivas DB rushed to the spot and found Vishal and Rohith operating the drone to capture visuals of Vidhana Soudha for their social media.

A case has been registered against them under BNS Sections 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery). Police said the duo admitted they wanted a better angle of the building's lighting and claimed it was for personal use. After questioning, they were relesed on station bail. **–BMB**

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PRINCIPAL

Bandipur's injured tigress being monitored; cub in danger

Forest officials weigh treatment versus risk, recalling Kabini tragedy where cubs perished after mother's capture, stressing minimal human interference

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The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) personnel are closely monitoring an injured tigress in Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The tigress, who has four cubs, has sustained an injury to her back leg and has been seen limping. According to officials, the department's immediate plan is to observe the tigress, assess her condition, and provide medical care, if necessary, while ensuring her safety in the wild. At present, however, officials are allowing her time to recover naturally.

"It appears the tigress has hurt her back leg during a hunt. A team of KFD officials and a veterinarian has been monitoring her since Tuesday evening. As of now, there is no plan to capture her for treatment. The decision will depend on how her condition progresses," said S Prabhakaran, director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. Wildlife conservationists have cautioned against removing the tigress from her natural habitat. They point out that capturing her for treatment could endanger her cubs, who are only seven to eight months old and still depend on their mother for food and protection.

"The tigress has been limping for at least the past ten days but has managed to hunt and feed her cubs. The department should evaluate her condition carefully and, if treatment is needed, it should be done in the field itself. Taking her to a rehabilitation centre would leave the cubs vulnerable, as they are not old enough to survive on their own. There should be minimal interference," said Joseph Hoover, former member of the State Board of Wildlife and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Experts caution against capturing the tigress, stressing intervention at the site itself to prevent cubs from becoming vulnerable without their mother. (FILE PHOTO)

> **"The tigress has been able to hunt and feed her cubs... if she is captured, they will not be able to feed themselves**
> – Joseph Hoover, former member of the State Board of Wildlife

Experts recalled the Kabini backwater tigress case from two years ago, where intervention proved disastrous. That tigress was captured and treated at Koorgalli Rescue Centre in Mysuru while her four sub-adult cubs were left behind in the DB Kuppe range. Without their mother, the cubs did not survive.

"Two died of starvation, one was killed by another tiger, and the fourth disappeared. This shows how delicate such cases are. The department must ensure the Kabini episode is not repeated," a wildlife activist said. Officials have confirmed that they will continue to monitor the tigress round the clock before deciding on further steps.

Baby elephant abandoned, rescue underway

A six-month-old elephant calf was spotted on Tuesday morning in the DB Kuppe range of Nagarahole National Park, sparking suspicion that it may have been abandoned and brought across the border from Kerala. Forest officials are now making desperate efforts to reunite the calf with its mother, though the sudden change of habitat has made the task extremely challenging.

The calf was first sighted near a plantation in Vadakanamala, HD Kote taluk, where locals tied it with ropes to prevent it from straying and offered it water. Forest personnel later stepped in, providing milk and water while searching nearby areas for its mother. Interestingly, videos from the previous day showed the same calf entering a school in Sultan Bathery, Kerala, amusing children before disappearing. With the Kapila River in spate, locals insist the calf could not have crossed into Karnataka on its own, fuelling allegations of deliberate abandonment.

Villagers expressed anger that such a young elephant had not been reunited with its mother in Kerala. Conservationists warn that releasing it into the wild without maternal protection could expose it to predators. If tracing the mother fails, they recommend moving the calf to a rehabilitation centre.

Mandya probe on female foeticide

The state government has constituted an investigative team to probe the negligence of officials and employees across multiple departments in connection with female foeticide cases reported in Mandya district. The order, issued by the Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department, has tasked a team comprising the Director of Health and Family Welfare Services, Mandya's Additional Deputy Commissioner, the Deputy Drug Controller of the Bangalore Central Office, and the Deputy Director of PCPNDT. The cases were initially registered 'suo motu' by Lokayukta police. According to the order, officials from Health and Family Welfare, AYUSH, Drug Control, Revenue, and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj departments failed to prevent illegal sex determination and female foeticide, reflecting serious administrative lapses. — BMB

143 mn units: State hits renewable energy record

Karnataka has set a new benchmark in renewable energy generation, producing a record 143 million units on August 18. At present, 75–85% of the state's electricity comes from renewable sources, marking a major shift away from conventional thermal and hydro power. Wind energy alone contributes around 65.8 million units daily, reflecting the rapid expansion of green power. Additionally, heavy pre-monsoon and monsoon rains have lowered electricity consumption to 179.03 million units, compared to 200.35 million units during the same period last year. The surge in wind and solar output has eased reliance on central power stations, cutting government spending on procurement. — BMB

Rains batter parts of Karnataka

Incessant rains battered several parts of Karnataka on Wednesday, damaging crops, disrupting road connectivity, and prompting precautionary evacuations, even as major reservoirs neared full capacity.

Heavy downpour continued in Dharwad, Gadag, Davangere, Haveri and Uttara Kannada, damaging houses and farmland. Officials said people were moved to relief centres in some areas as a precaution. Due to heavy inflows from upstream Maharashtra, water levels in the Krishna River have risen, officials said. Following the release of 1.60 lakh cusecs from the Narayanpur reservoir, the Sheelhalli bridge was submerged, cutting off road connectivity. Villages along the riverbank are now under "flood threat," they added.

With the Sheelhalli–Hanchinal bridge underwater, road access has been cut off to riverbank villages, including Kaddaragaddi, Yarigodi and Hanchinal. All 30 gates of the Basavasagar dam have been opened due to heavy inflows, while 17 gates of the Gurusanagi Barrage in Yadgir district have also been lifted, officials said. In Belagavi, heavy rains lashed the Malaprabha river basin. — PTI

Jumbo menace sparks demand to stop trucks in forest by 6 pm

Forest officials seek earlier restrictions in Bandipur after elephant venturing out at dusk targets fruit and vegetable trucks

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Even as Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra intensifies her pressure on the Karnataka government to lift the night travel ban through Bandipur Tiger Reserve, forest officials on the ground have raised a fresh demand — to ban the movement of fruit and vegetable trucks as early as 6pm, citing escalating elephant attacks and public safety concerns.

The demand follows repeated incidents involving a wild elephant that migrated from Tamil Nadu's Dhimbam Ghats into Bandipur. The animal has been targeting fruit and vegetable trucks heading towards Ooty. As dusk falls, the elephant reportedly emerges by the roadside, halts the truck, drags out food loads and destroys the goods. This has triggered traffic snarls on the highway, endangering commuters and transporters alike.

The situation has been further aggravated by tourists stopping to take selfies with elephants grazing by the roadside. On October 3, a tourist from Nanjangud, identified as Basavaraju, was attacked after he stepped out of his car to click a selfie near the Bandipur–Ooty stretch. Following the incident, forest staff have been on heightened patrol duty after dark, often using firecrackers to push the elephant back into the forest. Officials admit, however, that such operations become increasingly difficult as the night deepens.

In response, the Bandipur Forest Division has written to the Deputy Commissioner seeking approval to restrict fruit and vegetable truck traffic from 6 pm onwards. "A formal request has been made, but permission is still awaited," confirmed NP Naveen Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bandipur Subdivision.

Currently, vehicular movement through the reserve is banned between 9pm and 6am— a measure introduced years ago to protect wildlife and reduce human-animal conflict. Forest officials argue that extending the restriction to trucks from 6pm would help curb the elephant menace, though they acknowledge it could push traffic pressure into daytime hours.

The timing of this demand adds to the complexity of the issue. While local officials seek tighter restrictions to safeguard lives, Priyanka Gandhi continues to push for the lifting of the night travel ban altogether, citing connectivity challenges in Wayanad and suggesting that better infrastructure could ensure safer passage through the forest.

Currently, vehicular movement through the Bandipur reserve is banned between 9pm and 6am, though there is demand for lifting of night traffic ban entirely

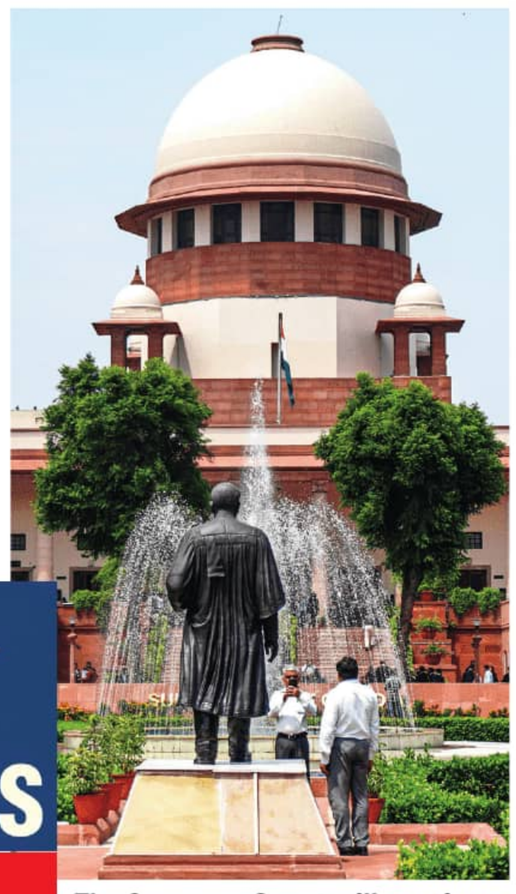
'Elected government can't be at whims of Governors'

Allowing governor to withhold assent to Bills without returning them to state Assembly could stall legislation: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Wednesday remarked that allowing a Governor to withhold assent to Bills without returning them to the state Assembly would place the functioning of an elected government at the "whims and fancies" of a Governor.

A Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai, was hearing the reference made by the President under Article 143 of the Constitution in the aftermath of the apex court verdict in the Tamil Nadu Bills case.

President Droupadi Murmu, in May this year, had asked the Supreme Court to report its opinion on constitutional options available to a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution.



IN FOCUS
PREZ'S QUERY

The Supreme Court will continue the hearing on Thursday

Before the 5-judge special Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, argued that a Governor could permanently withhold assent to a Bill without sending it back to the state legislature for reconsideration.

SG Mehta submitted that under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor has four options – to grant assent, withhold assent, reserve the Bill for consideration of the President, or return the Bill to the Assembly.

The Solicitor General, the second-highest law officer of the Union government, added that if a Governor withholds assent, there is no obligation to return the Bill to the state Assembly for reconsideration.

At this, CJI Gavai said: "Would we not be giving total powers to the Governor to sit in appeal? The government elected with the majority will be at the whims and fancies of the Governor", suggesting that such an interpretation of the Governor's powers could allow him to indefinitely stall legislation.

When the Solicitor General referred to the Constituent Assembly debates on the importance of Governors in India's federal structure, the Supreme Court asked whether the high office had, in practice, lived up to the Constituent Assembly's vision of maintaining harmony with elected state governments.

"You are entitled to read the debates, but see whether expectations have been met," CJI Gavai told Mehta, pointing out that the exercise of Governors' discretionary powers in the past had triggered several rounds of litigation.

Stressing that constitutional interpretation cannot be based on the "worst examples", the law officer argued that the Governor's power to withhold assent is meant to be exercised rarely and sparingly, only in extraordinary situations such as when a Bill is unconstitutional, repugnant, or violative of fundamental rights.

The 5-judge special Bench will continue hearing the matter titled "In Re: Assent, Withholding or Reservation of Bills by the Governor and the President of India" on Thursday.

In April 2025, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, using its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, resolved a standoff between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor R.N. Ravi over the delay in granting assent to Bills passed by the Assembly. It ruled that Governor Ravi's refusal to approve 10 Bills in Tamil Nadu was both "illegal and arbitrary" and set a three-month deadline for Presidential and gubernatorial approval of Bills passed by the legislature for a second time. "The President is required to take a decision on the Bills reserved for his consideration by the Governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received," said a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan. If there is no decision within this time frame, states are entitled to file writ petitions seeking a writ of mandamus against the President, the Justice Pardiwala-led Bench clarified. The apex court used the powers for the purpose of declaring the 10 withheld Bills as deemed to have been assented to on the date they were presented to the Governor. **–IANS**

AROUNDTHEWORLD

NATO to Ukraine's defence

NATO defense chiefs were due to hold a virtual meeting Wednesday, a senior alliance official said, as Western countries pushing for an end to Russia's war on Ukraine devise possible future security guarantees for Kyiv that could help forge a peace agreement.
Italian Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, the chair of NATO's Military Committee, said that 32 defense chiefs from across the alliance would hold a video conference as a U.S.-led diplomatic push seeks to end the fighting.
US Gen. Alexus Grynkewich, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, will take part in the talks, Dragone said on social platform X.
Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov chided efforts to work on security arrangements in Ukraine without Moscow's involvement. "We cannot agree with the fact that it is now proposed to resolve collective security issues without the Russian Federation. This will not work," Lavrov said Wednesday. **–AP**

Afghanistan bus crash kills 70

A bus crash in northwestern Afghanistan killed at least 79 people returning from Iran, including 19 children, an official said.
Two people were also injured in the crash, Ministry of Interior spokesperson Abdul Mateen Qani told The Associated Press.
Tolo News, citing the official, said the accident happened Tuesday around 8:30 p.m. local time in Herat province. The bus collided with a truck and a motorbike, causing a massive fire that killed many on the spot, the outlet reported.
Traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan, mainly due to poor road conditions and driver carelessness.
Nearly 1.8 million Afghans have been forcibly returned from Iran in the past few months. A further 184,459 were sent back from Pakistan and more than 5,000 were deported from Turkey since the beginning of the year. Additionally, nearly 10,000 Afghan prisoners have been repatriated. **–AP**

White House on TikTok

The White House launched an official TikTok account on Tuesday, taking advantage of the short video app's more than 170 million US users to spread the messages of President Donald Trump.
Trump has a soft spot for the popular app, crediting it with helping him gain support among young voters when he defeated Democrat Kamala Harris in the November 2024 presidential election. Lawmakers in Washington worry, however, that its U.S. user data could fall into the hands of China's government. Trump has been working on a deal for U.S. investors to buy the app from TikTok's Chinese parent, ByteDance.
The new account, @whitehouse, went live on Tuesday evening. **–Reuters**

Narcos India edition

Rs 11,310 crore: Worth of narcotics seized from various ports in the country between 2020 and 2024, Rajya Sabha was informed

Rs 7,350 crore: Worth of drugs seized from ports in Gujarat

Rs 2,367 crore: From Maharashtra

Rs 1,515 crore from Tamil Nadu

Rs 78.017 crore from West Bengal

Rs 6,386 crore: Worth of narcotics were seized from the Adani Port SEZ, Mundra, in Gujarat

Of which: **3,063 kg** of heroin and 52 kg of cocaine were seized in three separate consignments in **2021-22**

928 kg of heroin worth Rs 1856 crore, **198 kg** of Methamphetamine worth Rs 158 crore, and **59 kg** of cocaine valued at Rs 295 crore in seven different operations from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Mumbai, from **2020-24**.

–PTI

CLOSERHOME

Quota for orphaned children

The Karnataka government is considering creating a "special category" for orphaned children to provide them with reservation in education, state Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said on Wednesday.
Responding to a question by Congress MLA Nayana Motamma during Question Hour in the assembly, Hebbalkar said the move would be on the lines of the reservation provided to persons with disabilities.
"To provide reservation in education for orphaned children, they will be considered under a special category. They cannot be brought under SC/ST as that has to be decided by the central government. So, the state will do whatever is possible within its powers. Since their number is not very large, a separate category will be created," she said.
The minister said her department would make every effort to extend all possible assistance to such children to help shape their future. **–PTI**

Lok Sabha passes online gaming bill without debate

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, through a voice vote, bypassing debate amid intense protests from Opposition members seeking discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls in Bihar.
The bill, introduced by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to regulate India's booming online gaming sector while imposing restrictions on online money games. Despite Speaker Om Birla's repeated appeals to allow discussion—including an offer of 18 hours of floor time—the Opposition remained adamant on prioritising the voter list issue, leading to a noisy walkout.
The bill was passed without any deliberation. In his address, Vaishnaw emphasised the need for a structured framework to govern the rapidly expanding digital gaming space. He categorised the sector into three segments: e-sports, social games, and online money games. While the first two were praised for promoting logic, learning, and entertainment, the third—online money gaming—was condemned for fostering addiction, financial distress, and fraud.
Citing a recent news report published in Karnataka, the minister said that 32 lives had been lost due to money-gaming-related incidents in just a few months. He also referenced the World Health Organisation's classification of gaming disorder as a psychological condition. **–IANS**

‘Almost 80% PG owners make less than Rs 20 Lakh’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In response, the Karnataka government launched a ‘Know GST’ campaign, assuring that old arrears won’t be pursued if traders register. Officials clarified GST applies only to businesses crossing turnover thresholds of ₹40 lakh (goods) and ₹20 lakh (services).

PG Association clarification

According to the post, “the owner asked me to either pay in cash or add 12% GST to the amount. It feels unfair”. PG Association president Arun Kumar told BM, “Paying guest accommodations and hostels fall under accommodation and services. The fee that we collect goes equally to other expenditures such as electricity bill, milk, grocery, vegetables, water etc.

Hence only if our thresholds are over Rs 20 lakh then GST will be applied. Almost 80% of PG owners’ threshold is less than Rs 20 lakh, so we haven’t faced any issue and haven’t received any complaint regarding this.”

For students and young professionals, this practice has created confusion and financial strain. “We moved to Bengaluru for work, and most of us prefer online transactions for transparency and safety. Being forced to pay in cash makes us uncomfortable, and adding GST to the rent makes PG living unaffordable,” said a user in the comment section. A few others also questioned the GST bill and asked “will they provide a GST bill, registration or certificate also?”

GST officials clarify rules

GST Department officials said that such complaints have been reported earlier. They clarified that if a PG or hostel owner has an annual turnover above ₹20 lakh, GST is applicable.

However, if the same owner is running the PG or hostel in a rented property, they are exempt. In this case, officials believe some high-earning owners may be insisting on cash payments or adding extra charges for online transactions in order to conceal their actual taxable turnover.

The GST Council recently clarified rules on hostel and accommodation services. Many had sought exemption for hostels, service apartments, and long-term hotel bookings, especially for students and charitable trusts.

In its 53rd meeting on June 22, 2024, the Council decided that 12% GST applies to PG and hostel services that charge above ₹20,000 per person per month or provide short-term accommodation (less than 90 days). However, if the stay is for 90 days or longer and the monthly rent is ₹20,000 or less per person, GST is not applicable. This exemption applied from July 15, 2024.

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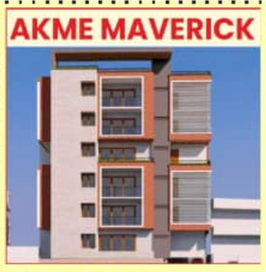

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

RAHUL Upadhya f/o Rishvi Upadhya has changed her name to Mahika Upadhya vide affidavit dated 19/08/2025.

I, Nagaraju Bramhasandra S/o Seebinaiah Narasimhaiah R/o D-125, Brigade Meadows plumeria 122 Saalu Hunase Kaggalipura B'lore-560082 have changed my name to Nagaraju Bramhasandra Seebinaiah

I, Zeenat Unnisa W/O Nawab Khan R/o 1st Cross A R Extension Momeem Masjid Road Hosakote Bangalore Rural 562114 have changed my name to Zeenath Unisa

I, Naveen Kumar Kadathoka Gopalakrishna S/O Gopalakrishna Bhat R/o 94, 5th Cross, Shriniketh Layout, Abbigere, B'luru, 560014 have changed my name to Naveen Kumar for all purposes.

I Srinivas s/o Kodandaramaiah K L, R/o No-279, C Block, C Q A L Layout Sahakar Nagar Bengaluru, 560092 have changed my name to Srinivas Kodandaramaiah for all Purposes.

I, Devidson S/o. Jayaraj Shanmugam, R/o. No.346, Near Kadirenahalli Park, Yarab Nagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560070. I had changed my name from 'devidson' to 'davidson' for all purposes vide affidavit no - IN-KA19671500304555X.

I, Srivatsan S/o, Ramasubbu Jayaraman R/o Gm Infiniteglobal Techies Town, Tower-c, Wing-3, Flat C2728, Thirupalya, Electronics City Phase-1, B'luru -560100 have changed my name to Srivatsan Ramasubbu for all purposes.

I, Sunil Venkoba Rao Suthrave R/o No. 22, Nakshatra, Maruthi Meadows Cross Road, Near Keuper School, Opp. Sabc, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore 560077 have changed my minor son's name from Aryan King Suthrave to Aryan Suthrave.

I Komala Nagabhushan W/O, Nagabhushan Pamisetty R/o Flat No 204,lakshmi Heritage, No 4, 2nd Main, Lakshminarayana Puram, Sriramapuram, Bengaluru - 560021 have changed my name to Komala Channarayappa.

I, MONIKA ASHISH JAIN, Residing at No MB403, Golden Grand Apartments, Yeswanthpura, Bangalore-560022, Have changed my name to MONIKA JAIN, vide affidavit dated 20/08/2025 sworn before Notary Smt. A. Manjula Bangalore

I, MILAN KAMALKUMAR JAIN, Residing at No MB403, Golden Grand Apartments, Yeswanthpura, Bangalore-560022, Have changed my name to MILAN KAMAL JAIN, vide affidavit dated 18.8.2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Mahindrakar Nayana W/o Suryakant Narayanarao Lokhande R/o Flat 204, J Block Purva panorama Apartment, Kalen agrahar, Bennerghatta Rd, B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Nayana Suryakant Lokhande.

I Ammapalyam Lokanadha Reddy R/o 2-52 Pedda Anjimedu Chittor have changed my Daughter 's name from Amapalem Yashitha to Ammapalyam Yashitha Reddy

I, Venkat Shailendra Kandikuppa R/o Da901,deodar A Wing, Sattva Greenage, Bommanhalli Hosur Road have changed my minor daughter's name from Tanmayee to Tanmayee Kandikuppa.

I, Aishwarya Dodda Gouda Patil R/o 246, SRS Plaza, 13th cros,s Indiranagar 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to Aishwarya Patil Affidavit Dt.20/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Bimal Kumar Lohia S/o Motilal Lohia R/o B 401 amoda valmark doddakammanahalli mn rd, near maryyamma temple, b-lore-560083 have changed my name to Bimal Lohia.

I, Hanumath Raj V, s/o Venkatagiri Shetty D, R/o #14, Yeshwanthapura Circle , Police Qtrs,B'lore-560022 have changed my name to Hanumath Raju V, vide Affidavit Dt.20/08/2025 Notary K P Ramesh. B'luru.

I Dinakara B V, S/o S Venkatesh, Residing at No.122, 3rd main road, AGS Colony, Anandnagar, H A farm post, Bangalore-560024 that I have changed my name to B V Dinakar for all purposes. Affidavit Dated 18.08.2025 Sworn Before Notary Sivakumara M N Bengaluru.

I, Poojary Akshay Anand S/o Anand Poojary R/o No. T1, Shivaganga Smaran, 1st Cross, Yelachenahalli, J P Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 78, have changed my name to AKSHAY POOJARY vide affidavit dated 12.08.2025 notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao, B'luru

I, GANGA NARAYANAPPA Resident At No 33, 10th Main, Bharath Matha Block, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru- 560003 have changed my name to GANGAMMA vide affidavit dated: 19.05.2025 Sworn before notary: D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, Anandi Bhandari W/o Sri Vittal Rao, R/o No.6116, Prestige Bagamane Temple Bells, Javaregowda Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru -560098 have changed my name from Anandi to Anandi Bhandari vide affidavit No IN-KA1975941 8246292X dated 18.08.2025 for all the purpose

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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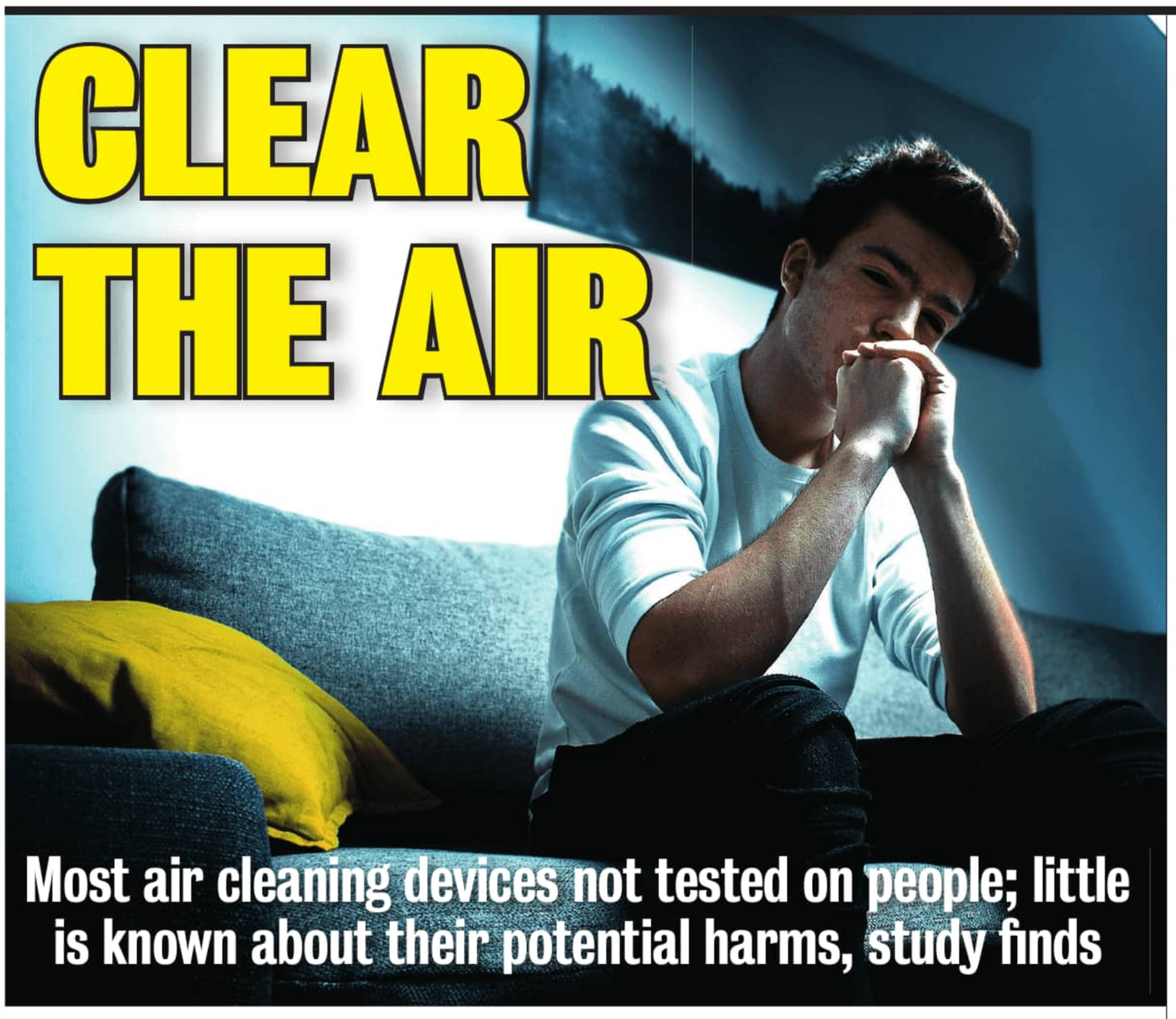
HEALTH TIP: Share your experiences and feelings with a trusted person to lighten the load on your mind

Daily use of Niacinamide can fade dark spots, melasma, and acne marks, giving you a more even-toned complexion

CLEAR THE AIR



Most air cleaning devices not tested on people; little is known about their potential harms, study finds

Portable air cleaners aimed at curbing indoor spread of infections are rarely tested for how well they protect people – and very few studies evaluate their potentially harmful effects. That's the upshot of a detailed review of nearly 700 studies that we co-authored in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine.

Many respiratory viruses, such as Covid-19 and influenza, can spread through indoor air. Technologies such as HEPA filters, ultraviolet light and special ventilation designs – collectively known as engineering infection controls – are intended to clean indoor air and prevent viruses and other disease-causing pathogens from spreading.

Along with our colleagues across three academic institutions and two government science agencies, we identified and analyzed every research study evaluating the effectiveness of these technologies published from the 1920s through 2023 – 672 of them in total.

These studies assessed performance in three main ways: Some measured whether the interventions reduced infections in people; others used animals such as guinea pigs or mice; and the rest took air samples to determine whether the devices reduced the number of small particles or microbes in the air. Only about 8% of the studies tested effectiveness on people, while over 90% tested the devices in unoccupied spaces.

We found substantial variation across different technologies. For example, 44 studies examined an air cleaning process called photocatalytic oxidation, which produces chemicals that kill microbes, but only one of those tested whether the technology prevented infections in people. Another 35 studies evaluated plasma-based technologies for killing microbes, and none involved human participants. We also found 43 studies on filters incorporating nanomaterials designed to both capture and kill microbes – again, none included human testing.

Why it matters

The Covid-19 pandemic showed just how disruptive airborne infections can be – costing millions of lives worldwide, straining health systems and shutting down schools and workplaces. Early studies showed that the Covid-19 virus was spreading through air. Logically, improving indoor air quality to clear the virus from air became a major focus as a way to keep people safe.

> **Engineering infection controls may protect people from infection by working in the background of daily life, without any effort from people**

Finding effective ways to remove microbes from indoor air could have profound public health benefits and might help limit economic damage in future pandemics. Engineering infection controls could protect people from infection by working in the background of daily life, without any effort from people.

Companies producing portable air cleaners that incorporate microbe-killing technologies have made ambitious claims about how effectively they purify air and prevent infections. These products are already marketed to consumers for use in day care centers, schools, health care clinics and workplaces. We found that most of them have not been properly tested for efficacy. Without solid evidence from studies on people, it's impossible to know whether these promises match reality. Our findings suggest that consumers should proceed with caution when investing in air cleaning devices.

The gap between marketing claims and evidence of effectiveness might not be surprising, but there is more at stake here. Some of these technologies generate chemicals such as ozone, formaldehyde and hydroxyl radicals to kill microbes – substances that can potentially harm people if inhaled. The safety of these products should be the baseline requirement before they are widely deployed. Yet, of the 112 studies assessing many of these pathogen-killing technologies, only 14 tested for harmful byproducts. This is a stark contrast to pharmaceutical research, where safety testing is standard practice.

What still isn't known

Over 90% of all studies tested these technologies by looking at the air itself – for example, measuring how well experimental gases, dust particles or microbes were cleared from the air. The idea is that cleaner air should mean lower chances of infection. But when it comes to air cleaning, researchers don't yet know how strongly these air measurements reflect actual reduction in infections for people.

Identifying the safest and most effective options will require assessing these technologies for toxic byproducts and evaluating them in real-world settings that include people. Also, standardizing how effectiveness and potential harms are measured will help inform evidence-based decisions about improving air quality in homes, schools, health care facilities and other indoor spaces.

(Amiran Baduashvili and Lisa Bero, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

1 in 4 millennials paid unfairly, 1 in 5 experience job insecurity: Report

Amid generational shifts and emerging technologies in the workplace, a report on Wednesday showed that one in four millennials is being paid unfairly for their work, while one in five are experiencing job insecurity.

The report by Great Place To Work India provides an in-depth view of how the millennial workforce is experiencing the workplace in 2025.

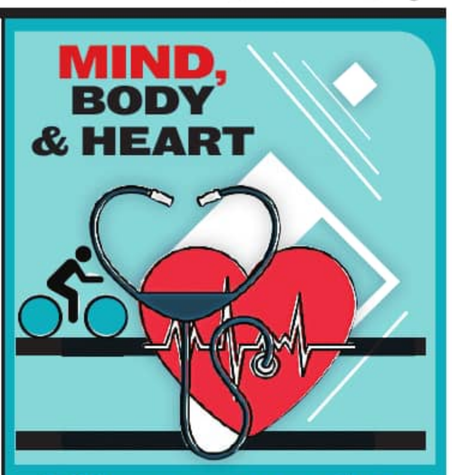
While most millennials agreed on working in physically safe environments, which also promoted their social and mental well-being, financial well-being was found to be the lowest.

"One in four millennials indicated they are being paid unfairly for the work they do. This suggests a need for organisations to understand and address equity and pay parity among their employees," the report said.

In addition, one in five millennials reported experiencing job insecurity, indicating that organisational communication and transparency may be key areas for improvement, the report added.

Further, 17 per cent of millennials reported that they do not experience a positive experience of psychological and emotional safety at work. This can have direct implications for overall organisational performance. The report also highlighted that millennials who feel psychologically safe are twice as likely to express the desire to stay longer with their organisation, underscoring the critical role this plays in driving employee trust, retention, and commitment.

"In the year 2025, millennials represent a vital mass of 63 per cent of India's workforce. Our recent study indicates that while millennials feel empowered through training and learning, they highly value holistic wellbeing and seek psychological safety, opportunities for growth, and job security," said Balbir Singh, CEO, Great Place To Work, India. **–IANS**



All you need to know about...

Omega-3 fatty acid

Prevent myopia in kids
A diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids is not only good for adults, but also crucial to ward off the development of shortsightedness (myopia) in children, according to a global study.

What is Omega-3 PUFA
Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (-3 PUFAs), which can only be obtained from the diet -- found predominantly in fish oils -- are thought to improve or prevent several chronic eye conditions, including dry eye disease and age-related macular degeneration.

With evidence
"This study provides the human evidence that higher dietary -3 PUFA intake is associated with shorter axial length and less myopic refraction, highlighting -3 PUFAs as a potential protective dietary factor against myopia development," said corresponding author Prof Jason C Yam, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

All about myopia
Axial length is the measurement of the eye from the cornea at the front to the retina at the back, and it is an indicator of myopia progression, while myopic refraction, also known as nearsightedness, is a refractive error where the eye focuses light in front of the retina, causing distant objects to appear blurry.
"Omega-3 fatty acids may suppress myopia by increasing blood flow through the choroid -- a vascular layer in the eye -- responsible for delivering nutrients and oxygen, and so staving off scleral hypoxia -- oxygen deficiency in the white of the eye and a key factor in the development of shortsightedness," Yam explained.
The research published online in the British Journal of Ophthalmology also found that a high intake of saturated fats, found in foods such as butter, palm oil, and red meat, may boost the risk of myopia.
–IANS

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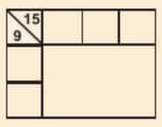
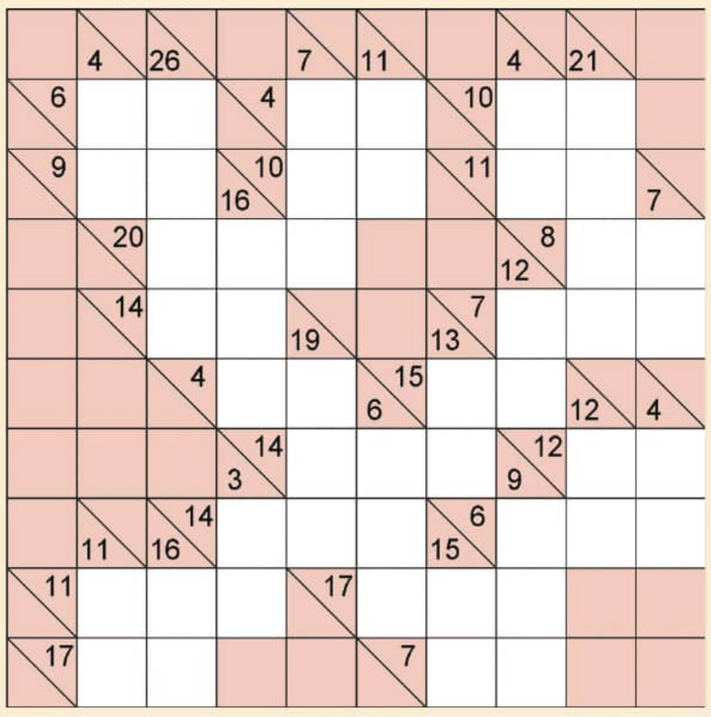
Kakuro

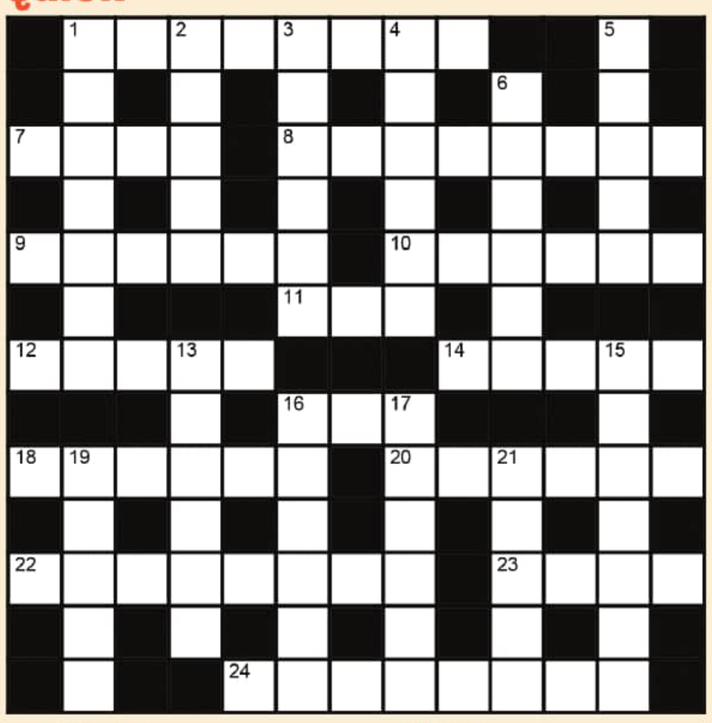
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Bowling feat (3-5)
7 A premium paid for the exchange of one currency to another (4)
8 Light banter (8)
9 Loyal but dependant subject (6)
10 Badgered constantly (6)
11 Poultry farm product (3)
12 Munch noisily (5)
14 Avow or aver (5)
16 Pointed tool (3)
18 Scratched (6)
20 Climb (6)
22 Added up or amounted to (8)
23 Inactive (4)
24 Soothed or calmed (8)

DOWN

1 Balderdash (7)
2 Implements (5)
3 Building debris (6)
4 Yielding or resigning (6)
5 Not clearly stated (5)
6 Make a life peer by dubbing (6)
13 2016 Wimbledon Champion (6)
15 Interlaced (7)
16 Grown-ups (6)
17 Horse-drawn carriage (6)
19 Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
21 Hold on to (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

WQKZSRT OKHR KU WDDCO-CAWZBQM LKERT WTBXRX UTKO ABUZBQM W ERBMSZ WQH ZSRQ WAAKEBQM BZ ZK UWAA

Linemaro

If you were a drug, I'd overdose

Mindchow

Remember that pain has this most excellent quality. If prolonged it cannot be severe, and if severe it cannot be prolonged

Joke of the day

The average tourist wants to go to places where there are no tourists

Loop

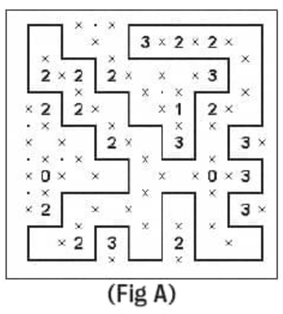
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

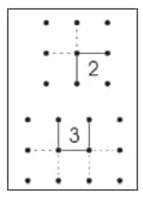
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

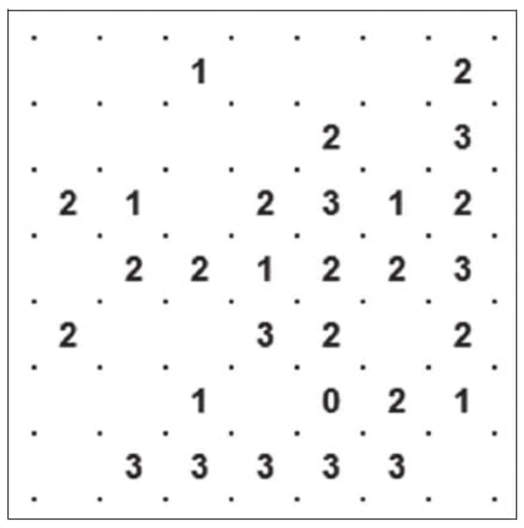
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



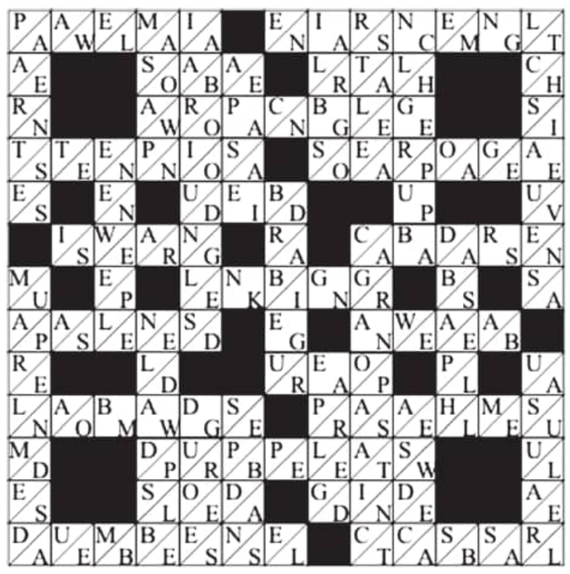
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



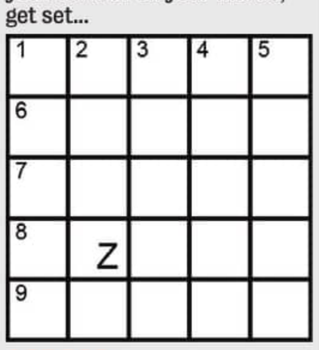
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

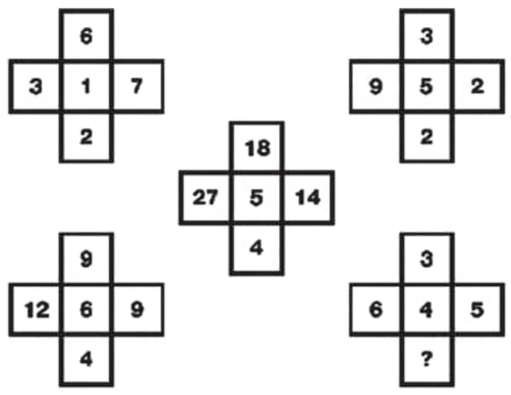
1 Goers; 6 MC Hap; 7 Tetra; 8 Al Zen; 9 Die do

DOWN

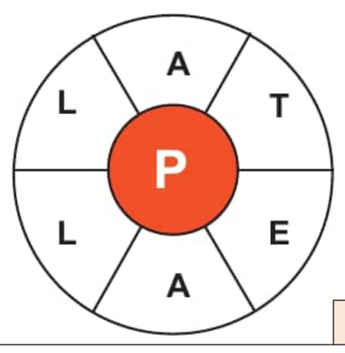
1 To cad; 2 Zag hi; 3 Tario; 4 Me den; 5 Speer

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2		4	6					5
	1		3	2	8			
		7	9					
9					1			
7			4		5			2
			8					4
					3	9		
			7	4	2		5	
3					6	1		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

1 5 6 7

Medium = 14

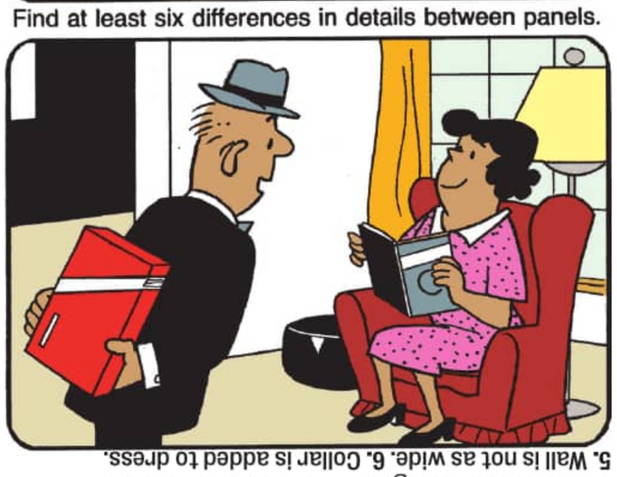
3 3 3 5

Hard = 4

2 4 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



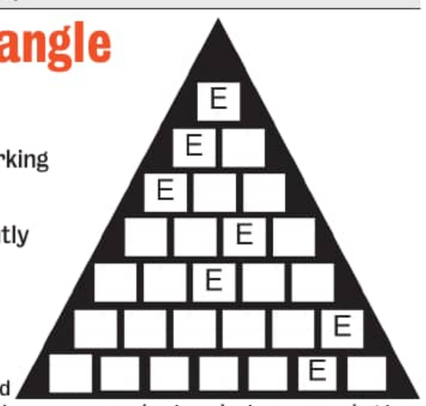
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Nose is different. 3. Arm of chair is higher. 4. Window is different. 5. Wall is not as wide. 6. Collar is added to dress.

Riddler

Each group of definitions describes three words that are spelled the same, except for one letter (each group describes a different set of words). Example: king, ring, wing. The length of the words in each group is provided. 1) a long step & a conflict or struggle & to hit sharply (6 letters) 2) medicinal ointment & a device that regulates flow through a pipe & to divide into two equal parts (5 letters) 3) not coarse & a musical instrument & a collection of papers (4 letters) 4) meager & sweet baked good & storage room for food (6 letters)

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Spanish article
3 Santa's helper
4 Musical staff marking
5 Tiny particle
6 Capricious
7 Flash intermittently

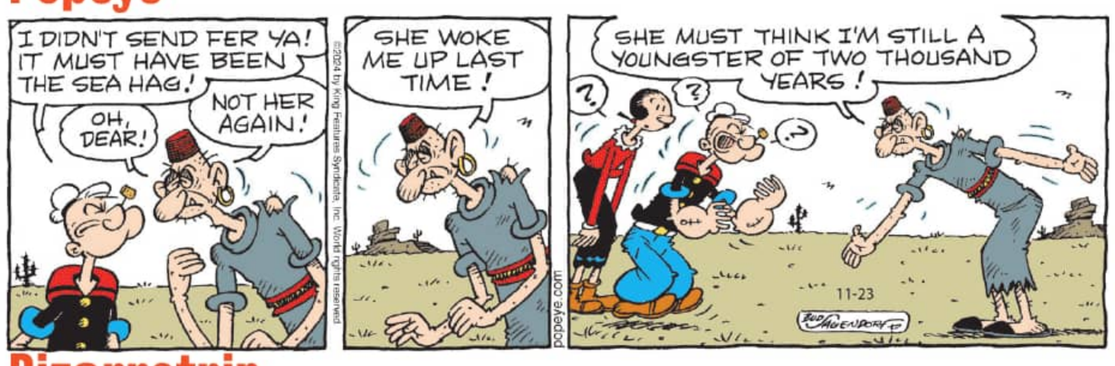


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


I DIDN'T SEND FER YA! IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SEA HAG!
OH, DEAR!
NOT HER AGAIN!
SHE WOKE ME UP LAST TIME!
SHE MUST THINK I'M STILL A YOUNGSTER OF TWO THOUSAND YEARS!
11-23
BOB ENGELHART
popeye.com
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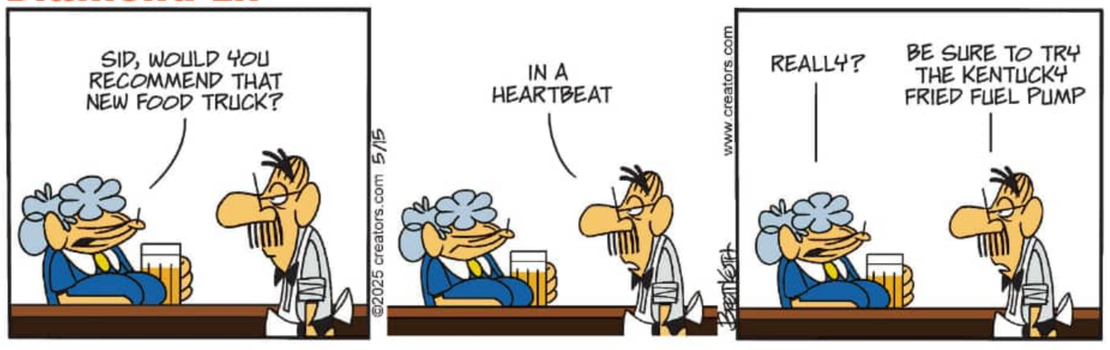
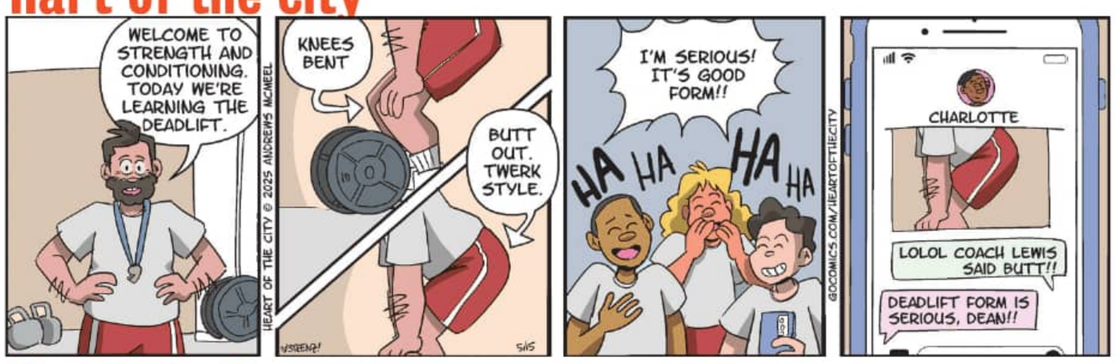
Bizarrotrip

My car was totaled, but fortunately, the emergency custard pie deployed.
Wayno & Piraro 5-15-25
BIZARRO.COM ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil


SID, WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT NEW FOOD TRUCK?
IN A HEARTBEAT
REALLY?
BE SURE TO TRY THE KENTUCKY FRIED FUEL PUMP
©2025 creators.com 5/15
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


WELCOME TO STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING. TODAY WE'RE LEARNING THE DEADLIFT.
KNEES BENT
BUTT OUT. TWERK STYLE.
I'M SERIOUS! IT'S GOOD FORM!!
HA HA HA HA
CHARLOTTE
LOLOL COACH LEWIS SAID BUTT!!
DEADLIFT FORM IS SERIOUS, DEAN!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I THINK THAT USING A TIERED SYSTEM MIGHT JUST BE THE THING TO HELP WITH THE OVERCROWDING ON OUR SCHOOL BUSES.
EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THAT WOULD WORK AGAIN!
SURE... FIRST ALL OF THE BIGGER AND TALLER KIDS WOULD GET SEATS... AND THEN THE SMALLER KIDS WOULD SIT IN THEIR LAPS!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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Mutts

MUTTS
• BOOK CLUB •
"ALICE IN WONDERLAND"
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
ADVENTURES IN A RABBIT HOLE!
WHA..!?!
I'VE BEEN IN A RABBIT HOLE— AND BELIEVE ME —THAT'S NO WONDERLAND!
5-15 MUTTS © PETER KAPOUNIEL
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WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Life may feel challenging today, prompting you to seek guidance from elders to navigate the situation. Patience will be key. Concerns over your children's education may trouble you, and a short trip related to their academics is possible. Investors should avoid speculative ventures and carefully assess opportunities before committing funds.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A sense of dissatisfaction may arise as your hard work doesn't yield the expected results, leading to disappointment. Read all documents carefully before signing a new contract. Investment in assets is possible, but rely on your intuition before making decisions regarding fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Social gatherings and family occasions could keep you busy today, helping you expand your network. A short work-related trip may also be on the agenda. Disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved, and subordinates may cooperate to complete a challenging project. Confidence will be high, but remember to remain patient in your interactions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Family gatherings will keep you engaged today. Your polite nature will boost your image among relatives and friends. Spending on artifacts or decorative items may enhance your social status. Good news from a close relative could brighten your day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Happiness surrounds you, helping you enjoy your routine tasks. Strong vitality will assist in making tough decisions that could boost future profits. A short work-related trip may be planned. Support from colleagues and subordinates will help you meet deadlines. Students may find improved focus, while mindful eating will help avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A feeling of dullness may linger, and sleeplessness could affect your mental and physical well-being. Concerns about a family member's health may trouble you. Unnecessary expenses on trivial items could harm your savings. Be cautious, as there is a risk of conspiracy — keep an eye on opponents.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your day may begin on a joyful note. At work, quick decisions could lead to benefits in the near future. A new source of income may arise, improving your savings. With your partner's support, you might invest in a business that promises future profits. Greater understanding with your spouse will enhance domestic harmony.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A busy day at the office may leave you mentally tired, limiting time for family. With elders' blessings, job seekers may secure high positions, and managers could be promoted to senior roles. Recognition and rewards are likely, boosting your professional standing.

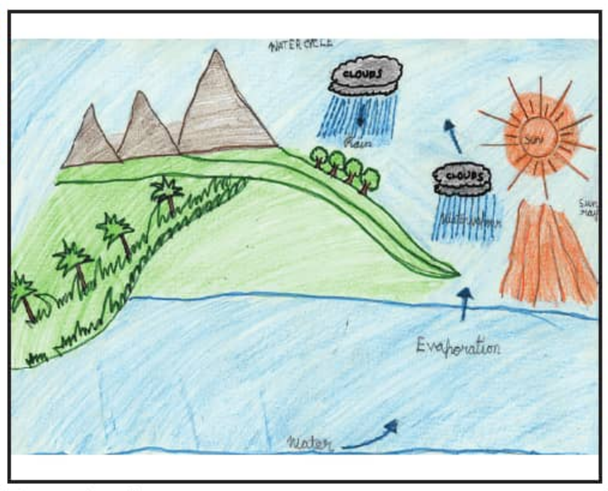
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Patience and a positive mood will enhance your work efficiency today. You may plan a visit to a religious place or make charitable donations. Lovebirds will deepen trust in their relationship, and you'll have the upper hand over opponents.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A low mood and lack of energy may impact your work, causing delays in projects and affecting your reputation at work and home. Avoid adventurous activities and reckless driving. Lovebirds might face relationship setbacks. Job seekers may experience disappointment.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Positive energy surrounds you, bringing stability. You may plan to start a new business in partnership and possibly arrange long-distance travel. Strengthened trust with your spouse will promote domestic harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may perform exceptionally well at work today, earning the trust of your boss and possibly receiving new responsibilities or promotions. Chronic health issues may improve. Incentives for your work are possible, and disputes with siblings could be resolved. Job seekers may find promising opportunities.

KIDZONE



Tharun, Bengaluru

Sahana, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M [(120÷6)÷4]^2=[20÷4]^2=[5]^2=25

QUOTE UNCODE
Another mode of accumulating power arises from lifting a weight and then allowing it to fall.

RIDDLER 1) strride, strrife, strike, 2) salve, valve, halve, 3) fine, fife, file & 4) paltry, pastry, pantry

FAST FIVE

O	G	R	E	S
C	H	A	M	P
T	A	T	E	R
A	Z	I	N	E
D	I	O	D	E

BULL'S EYE lapel, leap, palate, pale, pall, pallet, pate, PATELLA, peal, peat, plea, pleat, plate, tape

STRIKE OUT

P	A	L	M	A		N	A	S	C	E	N	T		
A		O	B	E		R	A	H				H		
R		W	R	A	N	G	L	E				I		
T	E	N	N	I	S		O	A	R	A	G	E		
E		E		D	E	B				U		V		
U		E		K	I	N	G		A	B	A	S	E	
P	A	L	E		D		E		N	W	E	B		S
E		L			R	A	O		L		U			
N	O	M	A	D	S		P	S	A	L	M	S		
D		P	U	P	P	E	T	S				U		
E		S	E	A		D	I	E				A		
D	E	M	E	S	N	E		C	A	B	A	L		

QUICK

H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K					A		
O		O		U		E		K				V		
A	G	I	O		B	A	D	I	N	A	G	E		
W		L		B		I		I		U				
V	A	S	A		L		N	A	G	E	D			
S				E	G	G				H				
C	H	O	M	P		A	W	L		S	T	A	T	E
			U							A				
S	C	O	R	E	D		A	S	C	E	N	D		
H		R		U		N		L		G				
T	O	T	A	L	L	E	D		I	D	L	E		
L		Y		T		A		N		E				
A			S	S	U	A	G	E	D					

MENSA PUZZLE
0. Use the top two diagrams as a source. Numbers in corresponding positions in the lower left diagram equal the sums of the numbers in the top two diagrams, numbers in the central diagram equal their product, and numbers in the lower right diagram equal their difference.

SUDOKU

2	9	4	6	1	7	3	8	5
6	1	5	3	2	8	4	7	9
8	3	7	9	5	4	2	6	1
9	4	8	2	7	1	5	3	6
7	6	1	4	3	5	8	9	2
5	2	3	8	6	9	7	1	4
4	5	6	1	8	3	9	2	7
1	8	9	7	4	2	6	5	3
3	7	2	5	9	6	1	4	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, El, Elf, Clef, Fleck, Flickle, Flicker.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 7 + 6 − 1 = 17
Medium
3 + 5 + 3 + 3 = 14
Hard
4 − 3 + 5 − 2 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Of grief
Aubrey Plaza describes grief over husband Jeff Baena's death, likens it to an 'ocean of awfulness'

Top priority

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday shared that for her mental health is top priority, as it is the foundation for everything else, including how she presents herself.

Talking about what defines her personal philosophy the most, fitness, fashion or mental health, Ananya told IANS: " Mental health, 100 percent. You can look amazing on the outside, but if you're not okay on the inside, none of it matters."

She added: "I've learned over the years that taking time for yourself, whether it's therapy, journaling, going for a walk, or just disconnecting from social media, is so important."

For the actress, fashion is also therapy. "I spend so much time in my closet, putting looks together, playing with new combinations, and just enjoying the process of dressing up. It's my creative outlet and a space where I feel confident and completely myself."

"Fashion and fitness are part of my routine, but mental wellness is what ties it all together. When I feel good mentally, I show up better, in my work, in my style, and in how I carry myself," said the actress, who has hosted Airbnb's Original experience.

What's her favourite part of the experience, the actress said that it is all about fashion and glam, curated by her and her "amazing A-team". "It honestly feels like a dream come true for anyone who loves style and self-expression. The experience takes place at a stunning Airbnb in Delhi, reimagined as my personal fashion studio for the day and I can't wait to welcome guests into my world." **–IANS**

Go by the method

Bollywood actors who embraced method acting with fearless dedication forever

Vidya's fearless authenticity

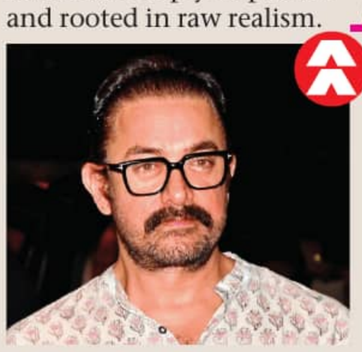
For The Dirty Picture, Vidya Balan gained weight, transformed her body language, and embodied Silk Smitha's flamboyance without inhibition. She embraced vulnerability and glamour equally, shedding vanity for realism. Her commitment to bold physicality and emotional truth proved groundbreaking, earning critical acclaim and redefining female representation through unapologetic method acting.

Ranveer's menacing depth

For Padmaavat, Ranveer Singh immersed himself in Alauddin Khilji's darkness. He isolated himself, maintained a fierce physical regimen, and explored menacing mannerisms. His preparation allowed him to exude raw power and unsettling unpredictability. This psychological dive showcased how method acting can push boundaries, creating unforgettable cinematic villains audiences cannot forget.

Aamir Khan transformation

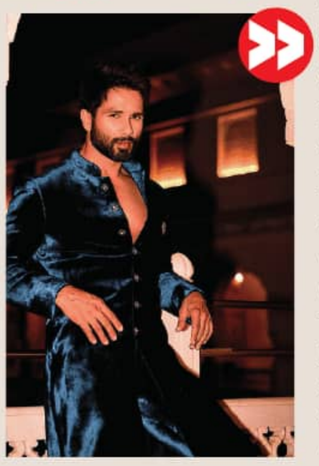
For Dangal, Aamir Khan gained nearly thirty kilograms to portray Mahavir Singh Phogat authentically. Later, he shed the weight to play younger scenes. His complete dedication to both body and psyche highlighted method acting's demands, making his performance deeply impactful and rooted in raw realism.



Nawazuddin's immersion

In Manjhi – The Mountain Man, Nawazuddin Siddiqui lived amidst harsh conditions, mirroring Dashrath Manjhi's struggles. He endured scorching heat and rugged terrain without cinematic embellishments. His transformation into the mountain man illustrated an actor's total surrender to character, leaving a lasting imprint of truth and intensity on audiences.

Shahid's raw portrayal



In Haider, Shahid Kapoor shaved his head, immersed in Kashmiri winter, and channelled Hamlet's emotional chaos. He lived within the turmoil of grief, madness, and identity, delivering a performance layered with vulnerability. His fearless dive into the complexities of trauma and politics cemented his reputation as a committed method actor.

–Sonal Khandelwal, ETimes

THAT DIDN'T AGE WELL?

Oscar-winning actor Alicia Vikander believes the 2015 film "The Danish Girl", which featured her in the role of Gerda Wegener, is "extremely dated".

The film was directed by Tom Hooper and will mark 10 years in November. Also starring Eddie Redmayne in the lead role, it was inspired by the lives of Danish painters Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener.

"The Danish Girl" revolved around Elbe's character, who becomes one of the first known recipients of gender reassignment surgery. "I'm the first one to say it already feels extremely dated, which I think is a good thing," Vikander told British Vogue in an interview.

She added, "At that time, it was a pivot in something that it made (the subject of transgender lives) at least discussed. I hope that, in a way, it was a bit of an eye-opener and opened the way for art to cover those themes."

The film got a standing ovation of nearly 10 minutes after its premiere at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, Italy. But went on to receive mixed reviews after its release.

In an earlier interview with The Sunday Times, Redmayne said he wouldn't agree to take up the role at present. Adding the film was made with best intentions. "No, I wouldn't take it on now. I made that film with the best intentions, but I think it was a mistake…The bigger discussion about the frustrations around casting is because many people don't have a chair at the table. There must be a levelling, otherwise we are going to carry on having these debates." **–PTI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

VFX delay for 45

The much-awaited multilingual 45 that was supposed to arrive in theatres on August 15 has been postponed due to the delay in visual effects work. Monsters Aliens Robots Zombies (MARZ) of Canada is handling the VFX for the movie.

Dr Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B Shetty, who is on a high with the success of his latest movie Su from So, are the lead actors in the movie. With this movie, music director Arjun Janya debuts as a director in Sandalwood. Ramesh Reddy has been bankrolling the movie under Suraj Productions banner.

Yash Gowda of MARZ said that around 500 Hollywood movies had VFX in Canada. "I think 45 is the first Kannada movie to have computer graphics from MARZ. This movie could very well be the first from India to have so many computer graphics. These CG works were supposed to be completed before August 15 but got delayed. We are confident of completing work on or before September 16," said Gowda.

He said the MARZ team apologises to Kannada moviegoers for the delay. "I assure you the movie will be ready for release by October 16," he said.

Patriotic music album

Mahendra Munot is known for films Auto Ramanna, Arivu, Mane Thumba Bari Jamba, Kiladigalu and Putani Power. He is currently excited about the success of the music album – Bharat is Bharat Not India. The album was made in 22 languages and Mahendra played the lead in it. Recently, Union Minister Prahlad Joshi unveiled the music album and appreciated the cast and crew of the album.

"I am very happy to be associated with Mai Bharat Hoon Foundation that has been working hard to create awareness among the public on the importance of patriotism. As part of the awareness programmes, Mai Bharat Hoon Foundation has come out with this music album. The song highlights the importance and sanctity of Bharat. The music album is brought out in all languages. I am lucky to act in this album," said Munot. Director Hariharan BP said Mahendra Munot has improved his acting skills. "I used to struggle a lot when he acted in my movie Kiladigalu that was released in 2020. We shot for this music album was done at 23 locations," he said.